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Message Text

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43
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MBOVA:HLB
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN - DAVID LAZAR
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O 181704Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 195478

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON'S COLUMN ON SOMOZA

1. ON AUGUST 18 JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND RAN AN ARTICLE "NICARAGUA RULER IS WORLD'S GREEDIEST". THE ANDERSON/WHITTEN COLUMN IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA. THE THEME OF THE ARTICLE IS THE VAST WEALTH HE HAS AMASSED, ALLEGEDLY AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN. SOMOZA IS DESCRIBED IN THE ARTICLE AS A "POT-BELLY-POTENTATE WHO RUNS NICARAGUA AS IF IT WERE HIS PRIVATE ESTATE." HE IS FURTHER CHARACTERIZED AS "THE MOST GRASPING OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GRABBERS" AND IS SAID TO CONTROL EVERY PROFITABLE INDUSTRY, INSTITUTION AND SERVICE IN NICARAGUA. HE IS ACCUSED OF LITERALLY BLEEDING HIS PEOPLE TO SELL THEIR PLASMA FOR PROFIT. BESIDES BENIFITTING AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE, THE COLUMNISTS ACCUSE SOMOZA OF SYPHONING OFF LARGE PORTIONS OF US AID MONEY WHICH IS SENT TO NICARAGUA.

2. ANDERSON AND WHITTEN CLAIM TO HAVE TRACED SOMOZA'S FINANCIAL EMPIRE THROUGH NICARAGUAN DOCUMENTS WHICH THEY
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HAVE TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH AND TO HAVE COMPARED THIS

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INFORMATION WITH "A SECRET ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SOMOZA" WHICH HAS BEEN COMPILED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS LATTER POINT WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

Q. IN JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ON SOMOZA, HE CLAIMS THAT HE HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS A "SECRET ECONOMIC PROFILE" ON HIM. WILL YOU COMMENT ON THIS?

A. WE DO NOT MAINTAIN A SECRET ECONOMIC PROFILE ON GENERAL SOMOZA. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECORDS CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT SOME OF HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, MOST OF WHICH IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. SISCO

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